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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development**

# Written statement* submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 May 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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# Violence against minority women in Iraq and Iran

On 3 August 2014 the terror militia IS (Islamic State) overran the city and region of Sinjar and displaced most of the inhabitants. Women and children fled to the mountains and have been suffering from a lack of water and food. According to the United Nations' preliminary estimates, at least 5,000 Yazidi were killed, up to 7,000 were abducted and 430,000 people from the Sinjar region are displaced. Among the abducted there is a high number of young Yazidi girls and women. Worldwide, there are one million Yazidi, a religious minority which ethnically belong to the Kurds. Besides the Yazidi in the diaspora there are some 500,000 living in the Sinjar region of North Iraq.

After being abducted from IS the Yazidi women and girls were divided in three groups: women with children, married women and virgins. These groups were taken to different places. Day in, day out the Yazidi are being forced to sexual intercouse with their captors. Oftentimes, they are sold to rich persons and merchants, for example to Saudi-Arabia or Syria as sex slaves. The value of the women depends on their looks, their age and other factors which might matter to potential buyers.

of the abducted Yazidi women and girls are not sold but being kept in IS hands in order to be exchanged among IS members.

Around 900 Yazidi women and children were either freed by being bought by family members or could manage to flee captivity. More and more publicly speak out about their suffering. There is for example of three sisters from the Sinjar region: the youngest, only 16 years of age, had been raped by four men before being sold to a man from Saudi Arabia. Her two sisters Rana (25 years old) and Sara (21 years old) never saw her sister again. According to the German news magazine Der Spiegel, Rana and Sara were themselves regularly raped by a Kazakh and a Russian. The

Those who are abducted by IS are victims of forced marriage, the forced conversion to the Islamic faith, torture.

Kurds in Iran

The events of early May 2015 demonstrate that the rights of women are violated even under the new president Rohani. After the attempted rape of a Kurdish woman in the city of Mahabad in Iran's Northwest on 4 May, protests occured. At least two Kurds were killed by Iranian security forces, 50 were injured and at least 282 detained. The woman was murdered during the rape attempt. She worked as a hotel maid and had tried to flee a government employee who tried to rape her. She ended up falling down from the fourth floor of the hotel and died. There were several protests in the region where Kurds make up for the majority of the population. The protests were partly dissolved with force. Online there was a lot of solidarity for the young Kurd: „We are all Farinaz".